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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS
INTERIM REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1942.

Health Department,
Latham House,
Cross Lane,
Newton-le-Willows.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my interim Annual Report for 1942.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health certain vital statistics are withheld from this Report and these will be published eventually in the complete report after the termination of hostilities.

There has been no apparent deterioration in the general health of the District due to war conditions during the year. It is very satisfactory to be able to report this in the fourth year of war but it must not be presumed that this satisfactory state will continue automatically throughout the increasing strain and restrictions of war, and it is essential that the Health Services should be maintained at a high level of efficiency.

The Health, Maternity and Child Welfare Departments have managed to carry out effectively their routine and multitudinous additional wartime duties and all members of the staffs have worked at full pressure to cover the work. Those officers with Civil Defence responsibilities have devoted a considerable amount of overtime to achieve the results obtained.

Infectious Diseases.

There has been a further marked decrease in the total incidence of notifiable diseases, although scarlet fever and pulmonary tuberculosis showed an increase over the previous year.

The incidence of diphtheria was the lowest for five years. Thirty cases occurred in the first half of the year and fifteen cases in the second half, which is usually the peak period for diphtheria. It is safe to presume that the intensive immunisation campaign completed in the spring played an important part in the comparative freedom from diphtheria in the autumn. As in the previous year most cases occurred in the 5 - 10 years age group. Ten cases occurred in adults and adolescents over 15 years of age. Thirty-six cases notified as diphtheria were found to be suffering from other conditions.

Seven cases of mild diphtheria occurred and two transient carriers were found in immunised children. This is equivalent to one case in every 459 immunised children as against one case in every 39 of the non-immunised child population.

One death certified as diphtheria but not confirmed, in a child alleged to have been immunised privately, was reported.

Scarlet fever showed a sharp increase over the 1941 figures but was of a sporadic nature throughout the year. Measles showed only thirty cases up to the end of November but in December 120 cases were notified and it became obvious that the two-yearly cycle for measles was about to recur.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The Council's Scheme, inaugurated in October 1941, was vigorously conducted in the early part of 1942. Twenty-nine sessions, mostly in the schools, were held in January and February and by the end of that month about 50% of the child population had been immunised by the Medical Officer of Health in a four months campaign.

It is a pleasure to record the very valuable and efficient assistance given by the Health Visitor, clerks of the Departments, female personnel of the Casualty Service and the head teachers of the schools. Dr. Lawrance also assisted during this period.

From March onwards immunisation has been carried out regularly each week at the Monday Child Welfare Clinic. The Health Visitor has been actively engaged in visiting or writing to the parents of all pre-school children in the District and a letter is sent to the parents of each child attaining its first birthday. Posters and propaganda slides at cinemas have been shown periodically in connection with national appeals on the wireless and in the press.

An analysis of the numbers immunised is given later in this Report but it is satisfactory to report here that by the end of 1942 74.4% of children between 1 and 15 years had been immunised. The level of immunisation is high enough to prevent any serious epidemic of diphtheria but is not high enough to eliminate the disease. Every effort will be continued to maintain these figures and to extend protection to more of the 1,100 non-immunised children. Many of these are the children of parents who, knowing little or nothing about immunisation, "don't hold with that kind of thing".

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Attendances at the Child Welfare Clinics show an increase, in spite of the difficulties which prevent mothers finding the time to bring their children as often as is desirable.

The condition and nutrition of infants and toddlers is good on the whole and priority in rationing and supplementary foods for children can be regarded as sufficient for their requirements, although more parents should avail themselves of the arrangements for obtaining cod liver oil and orange juice.

The attendances at the Ante-natal Clinic have increased again and the steady demand for confinement in hospital continues.

The issue of iron containing tablets was begun in April. These are issued free to the wives of serving men and in necessitous cases and at cost price to other expectant mothers. It is believed that these tablets are proving beneficial both to the mothers and babies.

Isolation Hospital.

With the marked decrease in the incidence of infectious disease requiring hospitalization the Hospital had a quieter year as regards the number of admissions. 142 cases were received from Newton-le-Willows, 57 from Haydock U.D., 35 from Warrington R.D., and 9 from H.K. Forces. There were seven deaths from infectious diseases in the Hospital and two from non-infectious conditions. It was fortunate that the Hospital was not at any time filled to capacity, as in 1941, because it is becoming more and more difficult to secure nursing and domestic staff. It would appear to have been a sad mistake to exclude hospital staffs from the Essential Works Order 1941.

The Matron, Mrs. Crockett, has maintained the organisation of the Hospital very efficiently under conditions of great difficulty but any further reduction of staff will almost certainly lead to a reduction in the number of cases which could be admitted.

Wartime Nurseries.

In February the Ministry of Health indicated that this District should make arrangements for two wartime nurseries and a considerable amount of time and trouble has been devoted to this subject. After careful examination of all vacant premises it was found that none were suitable for adaptation within reasonable expenditure and it became necessary to find a site for the erection of a standard pre-fabricated nursery. No site to serve the whole District is available but a site for the first nursery has been secured off Patterson Street and it is hoped that building will begin early in 1943.

Finally I have to thank the Health Committee, Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, the officers and staffs of the Departments and the ladies of the Voluntary Committee for their continued support and co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

S. K. APPLETON.

Medical Officer of Health.

1. Statistics. (Subject to amendment by information received from Registrar General at later date).

Birth rate 15.48 per 1,000 population
 Infant death rate 56.25 per 1,000 births
 Maternal death rate 6.25 per 1,000 births
 Death rate 10.54 per 1,000 population

Principal causes of death

Cancer...	24
Heart disease ...	60
Diphtheria...	4
Cerebral haemorrhage ...	10
Other circulatory diseases...	26
Pneumonia ...	13

<u>Infectious diseases</u>	<u>Cases notified</u>	<u>Rem. to hospl.</u>
Scarlet fever	63	51
Diphtheria	81 ÷	78 ÷
Measles	150	3
Whooping Cough	35	-
Pneumonia	28	1
Cerebrospinal fever	7 ø	7 ø
Erysipelas	2	1
Dysentery	3	2
Diphtheria carrier	1	1
35 cases were found not to be Diphtheria.	<u>371</u>	<u>144</u>

ø 5 cases were rediagnosed in Hospital.

Infectious Disease Contd.

Tuberculosis - new cases notified

(a) Pulmonary - 22
Non pulmonary - 11+

General.

There was little change in the number of houses, rateable value, and other statistics relating to the district.

2. Provision of Health Services.

Staff. There was no change in the personnel of the department during the year.

Ambulances.

There was no change in the year.

Laboratory Facilities, Clinics, Hospitals serving district and Cleansing services.

There have been no change in these matters during the year.

3. Sanitary Conditions of the Area.

There has been no important change during the year. Twenty bacteriological examinations of the water supply were made and all reports but one were satisfactory. A repeat sample upon the unsatisfactory report was satisfactory.

4. Housing

The activities of the department in this connection have been restricted by control of labour and materials and the Sanitary Inspectors have been obliged to confine requirements to the abatement of nuisances and dangerous conditions. There have been no new houses built in the course of the year.

5. Inspection and Supervision of Food

There are no slaughter-houses in use in the district and all butcher's meat is supplied from Central Depots. Regular observation is kept and special visits are made where necessary to food premises, market stalls, dairies, cowsheds and vehicles. Samples of milk supplied to schools are taken on behalf of the County Council and six such samples were taken in 1942. Fourteen samples of milk have also been examined bacteriologically and for Tubercle bacilli. Six samples were bacteriologically unsatisfactory and one was positive for Tubercle bacilli. Unsatisfactory reports were referred to the vendors and the Health Authorities for the areas of production. The positive report of tuberculosis was referred to the County Medical Officer for appropriate action.

The following food samples were submitted for analysis under the Food & Drugs Act, and all were reported upon as "Genuine".

<u>Article</u>	<u>Informal</u>	<u>Formal</u>	<u>Total</u>
Semolina	1	-	1
Soup Powder	1	-	1
Glauber Salts	1	-	1
Purmeric	1	-	1
Zinc & Castor Oil Cream	1	-	1
Nutmeg	1	-	1
Flowers of Sulphur	1	-	1
Dried Eggs	1	-	1
Flour	1	-	1
Cheese	2	-	2

Inspection and Supervision of Food Contd.

<u>Article</u>	<u>Informal</u>	<u>Formal</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cocoe	1	-	1
Flaked Rice	1	-	1
Canned Peas	1	-	1
Coffee	1	-	1
Coffee Powder	1	-	1
Tee	1	-	1
Canned Pilchards	1	-	1
Canned Sardines	1	-	1
Corned Beef	1	-	1
Mustard Powder	1	-	1
Epsom Salt	1	-	1
Camphorated Oil	2	-	2
Eucalyptus Oil	1	-	1
Walt Vinegar	1	-	1
Margarine	2	-	2
Lard	2	-	2
Butter	1	-	1
Sardine & Tomato Spread	1	-	1
Light Carbonate of Magnesia	1	-	1
Bicarbonate of Soda	1	-	1
Headache Tablets	1	-	1
Dried Milk	1	-	1
Milk	-	10	10
Total	36	10	46

The following foods were specially examined by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year:-

Examined and found fit for food:-	approx. weight		
	T	C	Q Lbs.
8 Pigs	14	1	4
210 Cans Chopped Ham	1	1	16
20 Cans Luncheon Meat	1	0	8
1 Can Stewed Steak			1
3 Cans Vegetables			3
2 Cans Fish			2
292 lbs. Jam & Marmalade	2	2	12
25 lbs. Butter			25
20 lbs. Sausages			20
104 lbs. Filleted Fish		3	20
Total	1	0	2 27

Examined and found unfit for food:-	T	C	Q Lbs.
16 Imported Eggs			2
Fish Paste		2	7
23 Cans Fish			23
17 Cans Corned Beef		3	18
190 Cans Evaporated Milk	1	1	26
35 Cans Vegetables		1	0
22 Cans Pork Luncheon Meat	2	1	0
41 Cans Chopped Ham	1	0	8
68 lbs. Beef		3	4
15 Cans Corned Pork		3	1
22 Cans Stewed Steak			24
46 Cans Fruit		2	26
36 lbs. Peas		1	8
118 lbs. Rice	1	0	6
50 lbs. Oatmeal	3	1	11
15 Cans Pork Sausage Meat		2	14
4 Cans Beef Brisket			12
116 lbs. Slab Cake	1	0	6
5 lbs. Butter			5½

Inspection and Supervision of Food Contd.

	T	C	Q	Lbs.
56 lbs. Custard Powder			2	0
54 lbs. Bacon			1	26
40 lbs. Pearl Barley			1	12
57 lbs. Cheese			2	1
32 lbs. Flour			1	4
32 lbs. Filleted Fish			1	4
2 Cans Soup				2
44 lbs. Sausages			1	16
74 lbs. Tea				7 $\frac{1}{2}$
2 Cans Ox Tongue				7
205 lbs. Lentils	1	3		9
10 lbs. Rolled Oats				10
10 lbs. Mixed Pulses			1	0
4 Jars Jam & Marmalade				4
1 Jar Meat Extract				$\frac{1}{2}$
2 Canned Puddings				3
1 Bottle Scotts Emulsion				$\frac{1}{2}$
Fig Offals				14
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>14$\frac{1}{2}$</u>

Total approximate weight specially examined

2 tons 1 cwt. 3 qrs. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Food Treatment and Decontamination

The scheme for dealing with food affected by enemy action was maintained and further steps were taken to enrol and train personnel. The Senior Sanitary Inspector is Food Decontamination Officer and the Additional Inspector is Co-ordinating Officer for mutual aid between this and two adjoining urban districts.

5. Infectious Diseases - Control.

Enquiries were made upon notification and disinfections carried out where necessary. The number of cases notified appears earlier in this report.

Primary visits by Inspectors	209
Secondary visits	53
Disinfections - Rooms I.D.	41
" Others	6

Miscellaneous disinfections:

	<u>articles</u>
Infectious Disease	2286
Civil Def. Services	24
Other L.As. I.D.	793
Library books	89
Miscellaneous	<u>286</u>

Total 3478

Disinfection of rooms and bedding is carried out in all cases of removal of tuberculous patients. Bedding is always disinfected in cases of Scarlet fever, diphtheria, cerebro-spinal fever, etc., and rooms are treated where requested.

Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme.

The following table shows the number of children between the ages of 1 and 15 years, immunised under the Council's Scheme:

Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme Contd.

Age	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
No.	185	136	150	167	239	202	209	203	198	264	218	250	200	42
	638 (51.8%)				2025 (65.5%)									
	2663 (61.7%)													

The addition of 550 children immunised by private practitioners gives the following approximate total percentages for the District.

1 - 5 years	64%	}	1 - 15 years	74.4%
5 - 15 "	78.6%			

The following specimens were submitted for bacteriological examination:-

	Pos.	Neg.	Total
Diphtheria	120	296	416
Typhoid & Para-typhoid	-	1	1
Tuberculosis	1	1	2
Cerebro spinal Fever	2	3	5
	<u>123</u>	<u>301</u>	<u>424</u>

7. Vermin Control

All complaints of vermin are investigated and advice is given to tenants and landlords. The following special visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors:-

Verminous Premises	...	19
Rat Infestations	...	29
Premises treated	...	9
Rooms treated	...	25
Articles specially treated	...	36

8. Maternity & Child Welfare

The 1942 totals are followed by the 1941 and 1940 figures for comparison.

Attendances	1942	1941	1940
Ante-natal	526	471	295
Post-natal	4	2	2
Child Welfare Clinic	6418	5168	6001
Total	<u>6948</u>	<u>5641</u>	<u>6298</u>

Confinements in Institutions

Council's Scheme	48	60	39
Private	11	29	27
Public Assistance	59	15	7
Total	<u>118</u>	<u>104</u>	<u>73</u>

Health Visitor's visits

First visits	298	339	323
Other visits	3210	2274	3223
Expectant mothers	201	217	165
Infant life protection	31	31	28
Periperal Pyrexia	0	4	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	10	9
Re Immunisation	450		
Miscellaneous	93		
Total	<u>4293</u>	<u>2875</u>	<u>3756</u>

Maternity & Child Welfare Contd.

Coupons for baby clothes were issued to 348 expectant mothers during the year.

Cod liver oil and fruit juices under the National Scheme were issued through the Clinic as in 1941.

Two Mid-summer and two Christmas parties for mothers and children were organised by the Voluntary Committee.

Fewer mothers and children have been referred to the Lancashire County Council Clinics owing to the restrictions of war conditions.

Milk: National Dried Milk Scheme 2652 packets sold
234 supplemented by Council.
Proprietary Dried Milk 8548 packets sold

Virol, malt, glucose, vitamin preparations and supplementary foods have been supplied also.

9. Isolation Hospital

Patients admitted to Hospital during 1942.

Disease	Newton	Haydock	Wngton Rural	H.M. Forces	Total	Deaths
Diphtheria	42	16	6	-	64	5
Suspected diphtheria	35	8	4	1	48	-
Diphtheria carriers	4	-	-	-	1	-
Scarlet Fever	51	27	12	-	90	-
Suspected Sc. Fever	-	-	1	-	1	-
Meningococcal Mening.	2	1	1	-	4	-
Suspected " "	3	1	3	-	7	-
Tuberculous "	-	-	1	-	1	1
Measles	3	2	3	6	14	-
Erysipelas	1	2	2	-	5	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	1	-	1	-
Chicken Pox	-	-	-	1	1	-
Mumps	-	-	-	1	1	-
Dysentery	2	-	-	-	2	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	1	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	1	-	1	1
Miscellaneous	2	-	-	-	2	2
Total	143	57	35	9	244	9

In dealing with the above cases the ambulance travelled 1937 miles in the year.

10. Miscellaneous

General Ambulance

Journeys in 1942

390

No. of patients carried 1095

No. of miles in 1942 - Daimler - 309)

Humber 9462) 9771

11. Sanitary Inspectors

The following tables indicate the nature and number of visits made, defects noted and remedied, and notices served:-

Total number of visits made - 2177

Analysis of Visits made

Dwellinghouse - Public Health Acts	95
Re-inspections - Public Health Acts	641
- Housing Act	7
Tents, Vans, Shed, etc.	12
Overcrowding complaints	3
Courts, Passages	14
House Drainage	333
Rat Infestations	29
Milk Sampling	13
Ditches, Watercourses	3
Ashpits and Bins	165
Cesspools, Septic Tanks	3
Tips	83
Keeping of Animals	3
Slaughterhouses	1
Butchers' Shops and Stalls	5
Meat Inspection	13
Other Food Premises and Stalls	54
Food vehicle	1
Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops	28
Factories	4
Water Sampling	20
Food & Drugs Act	40
Offensive Accumulations	1
Places of Entertainment	1
Verminous Premises	19
Petroleum Acts	3
Infectious Disease - Primary Visits	209
- Secondary Visits	53
Appointments - Owners	20
- Contractors	9
- Officials	4
Shops Acts	5
Salvage	69
Food Inspection	75
Offensive Trades	3
Bakehouses	11
Public Conveniences	4
Licensed Premises	1
Lodging House	2
Miscellaneous	115
Complaints received and investigated	183

Sanitary Improvements

Downspouts disconnected from drains	7
Drainage - Repairs and improvements	2
Ashpits abolished replaced by bins	1

In the following table of defects specified in notices and the table of notices served, the figures under columns "Complied" and "No. of defects - remedied" includes compliance, and remedy of defects upon notices which were outstanding at the end of 1941.

Analysis of Defects specified in notices

Type of Defect	Public Health Act	
	Noted	Remedied
Choked drains	56	65
Defective, insufficient or unsuitable dr.	1	2
Defective sinks	9	12
Defective and/or insufficient waste pipe	12	15
Defective water pipe & insuff. supply	66	103
Insufficient water supply	30	18
Defective water supply drains	5	5
Defective wash-house	1	1
Defective sash cords etc.	4	18
Defective window frames	8	1
Defective external cills	1	-
Absence of or insufficient ventilation	4	9
Defective floor paving	7	20
Defective floor boards and under timbers	13	11
Wallplaster - damp	5	3
- defective	4	25
- damp and defective	4	-
Defective brickwork and pointing of walls and chimney stacks	9	22
Defective roof and chimney flashings	21	30
Defective ceiling plaster	10	18
Damp ceiling plaster	1	2
Defective and/or insufficient paving and drainage - yards and approaches	5	13
Defective yard walls and fences	4	8
Defective yard gates	4	7
Defective closet - structures	11	12
roofs	6	7
cisterns	2	6
basins and joints	11	3
Insanitary ashpits	-	1
Insanitary disused ashpits	-	1
Defective dust bins	87	77
Absence of refuse store	15	17
Absence of/or defective and/or insuff- icient - gutters	17	22
- downspouts	4	3
Rainwater pipes ventilating drains	16	7
Def, and/or choked drain vent. shafts	1	2
Def. and/or choked flues	4	4
Defective firegrates	2	10
Defective ovens and ranges	5	8
Defective washboilers (structures and grates)	7	15
Filthy yard surfaces	1	-
Dirty floors	2	1
Absence of/or def. staircase handrails	1	-
Absence of washing accommodation	1	-
Verminous conditions - rats, mice.	-	2
- bugs	1	2
Bakhouse Limewashing	1	-
Cowsheds - limewashing	1	-
Miscellaneous	9	28
Totals	490	638

Notices Served

	No. served	Premises affected	Complied By By O/W Coun.		Defects Ntd. Fd.	
Public Health Acts Informals	330	330	324	-	490	638
Public Health Acts Statutory	68	68	28	26	77	54
re-Nuisances	8	8	-	-	19	-
Ashtrits and Bins	41	41	16	26	44	42
Drainage	9	9	5	-	9	5
Downspouts venting drains	2	2	1	-	2	1
Defective closet accomm.	4	4	4	-	4	4
Insufficient water supply	2	2	2	-	2	2

The compliance with informal notices includes those cases in which statutory notices were necessary to secure such compliance, and compliance with informal notices by the Council in default means that the compliances were affected following relevant statutory notices.

Food Inspection & Sampling, Infectious Disease and Vermin Control.

These matters are referred to earlier in the report.

Letnal Chamber

Times used - 390
Cats destroyed - 147
Dogs destroyed - 276

Salvage

The following materials have been dealt with in the year in association with the refuse collection and disposal service excluding those collected and disposed of privately by the W.V.S. and other departments:-

Waste paper	171 tons 18 cwt 1 qr.
Bottles and Jars	6 tons 2 cwt.
Rags	9 tons 3 cwt.
Tins	64 tons 1 cwt. 2 qr.
Scrap Iron	9 tons 15 cwt. 0 qr.
Non Ferrous Metal	1 ton 4 cwt.
Rubber	3 tons 15 cwt.
Bones	2 tons 5 cwt. 2 qr.
Glass Cullet	9 tons 18cwt. 1 qr.

Owing to difficulty in marketing a large quantity of bottles and electric batteries were in stock at the end of the year.

